

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 13, 2006. Claims 7-14, 21-28, 35, 45 and 50 are pending in the application and all of them have been rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Sekiguchi (USP 6,185,604). All Independent Claims 7, 21, 35, 45, and 50 have been amended to define Applicant's invention more clearly. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Specifically, each of the independent claims has been amended herein to more clearly define the present invention whereby the source of the e-mail data is informed when conversion from e-mail data to image data is not possible. Also, the independent claims recite, in part, the following distinguishing features.

For example, independent Claim 7 requires a receiving unit adapted to receive data composed of a predetermined character code from a source, and an informing unit adapted to inform the source of the received data of the determination result from the determining unit. Independent Claim 21 requires receiving data composed of a predetermined character code from a source, and informing the source of the received data of the determination result during the receiving session. Independent Claim 35 requires receiving data composed of a predetermined character code from a source, and informing the source of the received data of the determination result during the receiving session. Independent Claim 45 requires a receiving unit adapted to receive electronic mail from a source, and, if during a receiving session of the electronic mail, said converting unit detects that the binary data is inconvertible into image data, the source of the electronic mail is informed of a conversion error during the same receiving session. Independent Claim 50

requires receiving electronic mail from a source, and, if during a receiving session of the electronic mail, the binary data is found to be inconvertible into image data, the source of the electronic mail is informed of a conversion error during the same receiving session.

Accordingly, a notable feature of the present invention is that the source of an e-mail is informed of a result which indicates whether e-mail data can be converted at the receiving device or not, whereas it is believed that this feature is not disclosed in the cited prior art.

In this regard, *Sekiguchi* is understood to disclose a communication device that allows a user to obtain e-mail data remotely via an external public line. The communication device receives a remote operation command. A CPU of the communication device then gets access to an e-mail server in order to get e-mail data in accordance with the remote operation command. The obtained email data is then converted to facsimile image data and printed by the facsimile machine.

Specifically, *Sekiguchi*, column 10, line 19 to column 11, line 15, discloses analyzing a retrieved e-mail and outputting an error message at the receiving device when the data is not able to be printed on the facsimile machine. When the obtained e-mail data cannot be converted to image data or is of a data type that cannot be handled by the facsimile machine (e.g. color image data), the CPU of the communication device inserts alternative information including a character string which is inserted into the email in the space which contained the e-mail data that could not be processed to let the receiver of the information know that some e-mail data could not be printed. See, for example, Figure 7 which includes the alternative information which was inserted as follows: "The color

image data listed below is also received but this machine is not capable of dealing with it” and “You can get it from your computer”. The alternative information substituted in place of the e-mail data that could not be dealt with clearly indicate that the output message is not for the originator of the e-mail but, alternatively, is for the receiver of the e-mail print out at the receiving facsimile machine.

Applicants respectfully submit that nothing in *Sekiguchi* teaches or suggests the above laid out recitations of Claims 7, 21, 35, 45 and 50 in the context of the features of those claims. Specifically, nothing in *Sekiguchi* teaches or suggests the feature of informing a source of an e-mail when the receiving device cannot convert the data to image data.

Accordingly, the rejection under 35 USC §102(e) is believed to be overcome, and each of the presently pending independent claims is believed to be clearly patentable over the *Sekiguchi* reference.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

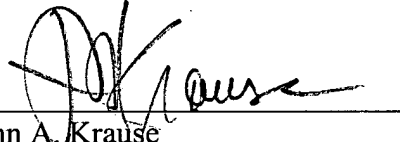
STATEMENT OF COMMON OWNERSHIP

In response to the Examiner's inquiry, this is to confirm that the present application and U.S. Patent No. 6,185,604 (*Sekiguchi*) were, at the time the invention of the present application was made, both owned by, or subject to an obligation of assignment to, Canon Kabushiki Kaisha.

CONCLUSION

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Krause", is written over a horizontal line.

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